

The Heritage Trust Program: Heritage Preserves

www.dnr.sc.gov/managed/heritage.html

The Heritage Trust Program

The Heritage Trust Program, part of the Habitat Protection Section of the SCDNR's Land, Water and Conservation Division, has acquired 70 Heritage Preserves encompassing 82,725 acres statewide. Heritage Preserves are managed by the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division and protect significant natural and cultural resources. Public recreation is allowed on most preserves.

Twenty-four preserves (52,032 acres: 64% of the total acreage in the Heritage Trust Program) are also Wildlife Management Areas; these are open to public hunting in accordance with certain guidelines. Hunting is not allowed on the remaining preserves because of their small size, public safety factors or other legal, security, or biological factors.

Many roads are gated because Heritage Preserves contain unique, sensitive and rare elements vulnerable to vehicular and inordinate foot traffic. Bag limits and season lengths on Heritage Preserves are set with the aim of restoring or maintaining ecological integrity. Hunting, besides being an important recreational activity, is an important management tool on and near certain Heritage Preserves. The Heritage Trust Program has followed the lead of several other WMAs and prohibits fox squirrel hunting.

Cultural resources are strictly protected on Heritage Preserves. All projectile points (arrowheads) are protected. It is illegal to take or otherwise disturb any cultural resource or to possess a metal detector on any Heritage Preserve.

All snakes (including venomous snakes) and other reptiles and amphibians, as well as any non-game plant or animal, are protected on all Heritage Preserves. It is illegal to harm or harass any of these animals or disturb plants.

SCDNR Heritage Preserve Regulations

1. Visitation and use of Heritage Preserves are governed by regulations to promote public enjoyment of the land while preserving the features that make them special.
2. Heritage preserves are open for public use from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset unless otherwise posted or publicized. Exceptions may occur for a special hunting season or field trip, in designated camping areas or for approved research or other projects.
3. Parking is allowed only for preserve visitors and only in designated areas (which may be parking lots and/or roadsides, depending on the preserve). Any other parking is prohibited. No vehicle shall block any road, regardless of whether the road is gated.
4. Collection, removal, possession of, or damaging or destroying any nongame animal, plant, rock, fossil, artifact, or ecofact, or the possession of a metal detector on a Heritage Preserve are all prohibited without written permission from the SCDNR.
5. No person shall abuse, damage, deface or destroy land, structures, signs or improvements on a Heritage Preserve.
6. There shall be no placement of trash, debris, rubbish, waste, or chemicals on preserves.
7. The consumption or display of any alcoholic beverage while operating or riding as a passenger in any vehicle and public drunkenness are not allowed. Alcoholic beverages may only be consumed by a person of lawful age only while camping at a designated campsite.
8. Camping and fires are not permitted unless areas have been designated or special written permission from SCDNR has been granted.
9. All terrain vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited on all Heritage Preserves.
10. Motorized vehicles are allowed only on designated roadways. Bicycles, horses and other conveyances are allowed only on designated trails of specified preserves.
11. Hunting is allowed only on designated preserves and only in accordance with Wildlife Management Area regulations.
12. Firearms are not allowed, except on Heritage Preserves designated as Wildlife Management Areas and then only in accordance with Wildlife Management Area regulations or as otherwise provided by state law. Target and other practice shooting are prohibited.
13. No plants, animals or other organisms may be introduced on the property.
14. All or part of a Heritage Preserve may be closed to the public to protect a species, or natural, cultural, historical or archaeological features.
15. A violation of any Heritage Preserve regulation is punishable under SC Code of Laws 51-17-130.

Heritage Preserve WMAs Contacts

Game Zone 1

864-654-1671, Ex. 24
Brasstown Creek (Oconee Co.), Buzzard Roost (Oconee Co.),
Watson-Cooper (Greenville Co.), Chestnut Ridge (Greenville
Co.), Ashmore (Greenville Co.), Eastatoe Creek (Pickens
Co.), Laurel Fork (Pickens Co.) Wadakoe Mountain (Pickens
County), Chandler (Greenville Co.)

Game Zone 2

803-419-9374 Rock Hill Blackjacks (York Co.),
Forty Acre Rock (Lancaster Co.)
864-654-1671, Ex. 24 Stevens Creek (McCormick and
Edgefield Cos.)

Game Zone 3

803-734-3886
Aiken Gopher Tortoise (Aiken Co.)
Ditch Pond (Aiken/Barnwell Co.)
Henderson (Aiken Co.)

Game Zone 4

843-546-3226
Lewis Ocean Bay (Horry Co.), Cartwheel Bay (Horry Co.),
Waccamaw River (Horry Co.), Little Pee Dee River Complex
(Horry and Marion Cos.)

Game Zone 5

803-419-9374
Lynchburg Savannah (Lee Co.), Longleaf Pine (Lee Co.),
Great Pee Dee River (Darlington Co.)

Game Zone 6

843-546-3226 Tillman Sand Ridge (Jasper Co.),
Victoria Bluff (Beaufort Co.)
843-844-8957 St. Helena Sound (Colleton Co.),
Dungannon (Charleston Co.)